

BLM Statement 8/25/2010

BLM had one law enforcement ranger on duty at the Johnson Valley OHV area on Saturday, August 14 when the tragic accident involving the CA 200 off-highway vehicle race occurred. At the time of the incident, the ranger was on his assigned patrol of the area. A pedestrian flagged down the ranger and reported an accident involving a vehicle participating in the CA 200 OHV race. The individual told the ranger that the vehicle had rolled over into the nearby spectators. The ranger immediately responded, and once at the scene, quickly assessed the situation, and called for emergency support. Emergency aircraft and multiple emergency vehicles arrived from cooperating State and county agencies.

BLM Statement 8/20/2010

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has granted the American Motorcycle Association (AMA), District 37, approval to proceed with its scheduled motorcycle race in the Johnson Valley Open Area this weekend.

The approval comes after a very detailed review of the AMA Special Recreation Permit along with a thorough assessment of public safety and crowd control requirements.

As part of an overall increased oversight of permit activities, the BLM has closely coordinated this weekend's event with the race promoter to ensure that the safety of the spectators and participants is of the highest priority.

Race coordinators have put in place additional safeguards at the start/finish line, pit row areas, and have increased security and medical presence to ensure safe racing conditions.

The BLM is continuing to cooperate with State and local law enforcement agencies in the ongoing investigation into Saturday night's tragic OHV accident in the Johnson Valley Open Area. The suspension of future MDR permitted events continues during the ongoing investigation.

All future permitted events will continue to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

OHV recreation is a popular activity in the California Desert enjoyed by families and responsible organized groups. BLM's ongoing review will be aimed at ensuring that public safety remains our first priority.

BLM Statement 8/19/10 regarding CA 200 Race Accident

The BLM is continuing to cooperate with State and local law enforcement agencies in the ongoing investigation into Saturday night's tragic OHV accident at Johnson Valley Open Area.

BLM has suspended any future permitted events of MDR Productions while the investigation is underway.

As for other permitted OHV races in the California Desert, there is one scheduled this upcoming weekend, sponsored by the American Motorcyclist Assn., District 37, at Johnson Valley. BLM is still reviewing this permit to ensure all safety requirements can be met before authorizing it to go forward.

All future events scheduled are being reviewed on a case by case basis.

OHV recreation is a popular activity in the California Desert enjoyed by families and responsible organized groups. BLM's ongoing review will be aimed at ensuring the public safety remains our first priority.

BLM Statement 8/16/10 regarding CA 200 Race Accident

The BLM is conducting an official national review of the tragic OHV incident on Saturday, August 14, at its Johnson Valley OHV Open Area, as well as continuing to cooperate with other involved law enforcement agencies in the Law Enforcement investigation. We expect the review and investigations to be done expeditiously, but we have no specific completion date. We will issue further information as it becomes available.

In addition, the BLM is reviewing all OHV events in the California Desert District for safety provisions.

BLM Statement 8/15/10 regarding CA 200 Race Accident

The BLM is saddened by the tragedy at last night's race in the Johnson Valley OHV open area and offers condolences to the families of the victims. When permitting such races, our first priority is safety for all involved. The permit, dated June 15, 2010, for this event required the permittee, MDR, of South El Monte, California, to provide a safe environment for its permitted 60-80 participants and 200-300 spectators. The permit specifically states: "the permittee is responsible for the safety of participants and spectators at the event with respect to the race/event course." It also states that the "permittee is responsible for confining participating vehicles to the marked course..." and that "all persons involved in and all spectators of this event are to travel 15 mph or less when passing within 50 feet of any social group..." The

permittee was also responsible for a first aid coordinator to direct emergency procedures. BLM is cooperating fully with other law enforcement agencies in the ongoing investigation, including the California Highway Patrol, which is the lead for vehicle accidents involving fatalities on public lands in California.